

2002
Pocket Manual of
Elder Services

RI Department of Elderly affairs
160 Pine Street
Providence, RI 02903

222-2858

www.dea.state.ri.us

INTRODUCTION

The RI Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) was established in 1977 (RIGL 42-66-1) in response to the growing needs of Rhode Island's older population.

The 2000 census counted just over one million Rhode Islanders, of whom more than 190,000 were age 60 and older. The state ranks sixth highest in percentage of population of persons 65 and older with more than 152,000.

Office hours are 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

ESPAÑOL

Para información y servicios en Español, poder llamar al Departamento de Ancianos al número de teléfono 222-2858, ext. 112. Otros teléfonos en la comunidad donde usted puede conseguir información en Español son: CHisPA al 467-0111, Progreso Latino al 728-5920, o a la Liga Urbana al 351-5000, ext. 152.

PORTUGUES

Para informacoes e servicos in lingua Portuguesa, chame para os seguintes numbers 222-2858, ext. 123, or 222-6161, ext. 207 Rhode Island Departamento das pessoas da Terceira Idade falamos Portugues.

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RI Department of Elderly Affairs

160 Pine Street

Providence, RI 02903-3708

Main Number: (401)222-2858

Customer Information Center 222-2880

TTY/Voice: 222-2880

Website www.dea.state.ri.us

For faster service, call these departments:

Director/Personnel 222-2894

Director FAX 222-1490

Health Insurance Information 222-2858

Heating Assistance 222-2880

Home and Community Care 222-2858

Legal Services 222-2858

Pharmacy (RIPAE) 222-2880

Protective Services 222-2858

Public Information 222-2858

Senior Companion Program 222-2858

Silver Haired Legislature 222-2858

Senior Workforce Development 222-2858

Voice Mail 222-6160

Adult Day Services

These centers provide frail and functionally challenged adults with care and supervision in a safe environment. Services include therapeutic recreation, health services, and respite for caregivers.

Bristol: Cornerstone Adult Services 254-9629

Coventry: Cornerstone Adult Services 822-6212

Cranston:

Cranston Adult Day Care 461-1000, X 6243

Feinstein Alzheimer's Center 946-9220

Victoria Court Adult Day Services 946-5522

East Greenwich:

Day Lilies Adult Day Center 886-9598

Little Compton: Nancy Brayton Osborn 635-2358

Middletown: Forest Farm Adult Day Ctr. 849-8326

North Providence:

Fruit Hill Day Center for Elderly 353-5805

Generations Adult Day Health Ctr. 725-6400

Pawtucket: New Horizons Adult Day Care 727-0950

Providence:

Crystal Pavilion Adult Day Services 272-3887

Jewish Srs./Comprehensive ADC 351-2440

Smithfield: Dora C. Howard, Ltd. 949-3890

So. Kingstown: So. Kingstown AD Svcs. 783-8736

Warren: The Willows 245-2323

Warwick:

Cornerstone Alzheimer's Ctr. 738-8295

Cornerstone-Apponaug Ctr. 739-2847

Westerly: Westerly Adult Day Svcs. 596-1336

Woonsocket: Alternative Adult Care 766-0516

Advance Directives

Advance directives are written instructions indicating which medical care we wish to receive or not receive if we are unable to communicate our wishes.

The **durable power of attorney for health care** permits adults to appoint an agent to make health care decisions on the person's behalf, if the need arises.

With a **living will**, individuals direct their physicians as to which life-sustaining medical procedures they wish to utilize or stop, if these procedures only serve to prolong the dying process.

Single copies of both the living will and durable power of attorney for health care are available from the DEA by calling 222-2880. No specific form is required for the living will. Advance directives may be revoked at any time.

The DEA legal services developer is available to discuss advance directives before senior groups. Call 222-2858, ext. 225.

The **COMFORT ONE** bracelet program enables emergency medical service personnel to honor a terminal patient's request to avoid resuscitation in his last minutes. Call 222-2401.

Advocacy

Seniors have opportunities to influence public policy through the following groups:

AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan organization for those 50 and older. Membership benefits include pharmacy service, insurance, group travel service, local chapter meetings, and legislative awareness. Call 847-1356.

The **Alliance for Better Long Term Care** advocates for those in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and those receiving licensed health care or hospice services in the home. The Alliance also offers Volunteer Ombudsman Program for those interested in advocating for those living in long term care facilities. Call 785-3340.

The **Rhode Island Forum on Aging** is a consortium of leaders from established senior, educational, and advocacy organizations.

It seeks to inform the public about issues important to elders. The **Forum** promotes the delivery of improved programs and services for older Rhode Islanders, and it lobbies before the state legislature for appropriate legislation and funding for senior services. Call 222-2858.

The **Rhode Island Long Term Care Coordinating Council** was created in 1987 to bring together leaders from the public and private sector to coordinate the state's long term care agenda. Call 222-2371.

Advocacy (cont.)

The **RI Chapter of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.** works to improve the lives of black elderly persons. Call 274-6783 (V/TTY).

The Advisory Commission on Aging advises the Governor and the Director of the Department of Elderly Affairs regarding issues and problems confronting older Rhode Islanders. Call 222-2858.

Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE/RI) offers support and social opportunities to elder gay persons. Call 751-1487.

The Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) is a representative group of older citizens who meet regularly and convene in general session each November to debate issues, develop resolutions, and recommend legislation to state and national officials. Call 222-2858.

The Gray Panthers of RI advocate for affordable health care, housing, and transportation. Call 725-1122

Aging 2000, 1 Richmond Square, Providence, RI 02906, is a grassroots non-profit organization working to make the health care system work better. Call 521-7930.

Agencies for the Blind

IN-SIGHT, 43 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888 helps blind persons develop skills in communication, mobility, orientation, self-care, and homemaking.

IN-SIGHT assists those having problems with aging and blindness. IN-SIGHT radio broadcasts readings of newspapers, magazines and books for the blind and visually impaired. Call 941-3322.

Saving Sight conducts glaucoma screening programs and public information campaigns to detect and fight causes of blindness. Call 738-1150.

State Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides vocational rehabilitation, counseling, medical evaluation, home teaching and other services. Call 222-2300 or 222-3010 (TTY).

Any resident 65 or older who does not have an ophthalmologist can receive no cost medical eye care services through the **National Eye Care Project**. Call 1-800-222-EYES.

Alzheimer's Disease Services

The **Rhode Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association** is a non-profit organization affiliated with the national group. Its mission is to coordinate resources for caregivers, educate health professionals and the general public, and advocate for improved public policy. Other services of the Alzheimer's Association include a helpline, speaker's bureau, newsletter, affiliated family support groups (listed on page 13), and an early stage support group for those with the disease. To obtain these services call:

Alzheimer's Association, RI Chapter

245 Waterman Street 421-0008
Providence, RI 02906 1-800-244-1428

Police departments with *Alzheimer's Alert* programs register Alzheimer's patients so the police may assist them if they are found wandering.

Many services listed in this booklet may be helpful to those with Alzheimer's disease and their families, including assisted living/residential care, home and community care, adult day services, elder care services, caregiver support groups, and legal services.

Arthritis Foundation - R.I. Chapter

Arthritis affects nearly 40 million Americans, or one in seven people. While arthritis causes chronic pain and loss of movement, there are many ways to help people with arthritis lead comfortable, fulfilling lives.

The **Arthritis Foundation, Rhode Island Chapter** offers a number of programs and services which people with arthritis may utilize including:

- People with Arthritis Can Exercise (PACE)
- Aquatics Program located at various pools across Rhode Island
- Self-Help classes
- Fybromyalgia Support Groups
- Arthritis Support Groups
- Information and Referral (including physician referral)
- Speakers Bureau
- Childhood Arthritis
- Financial Assistance
- Membership

The Arthritis Foundation supports research to find the cure for and prevention of arthritis and to improve the quality of life for those affected by arthritis. Call 461-9339.

Assisted Living Residences/ Assisted Living Waivers

These facilities provide a combination of housing and services in a setting designed to offer choice, independence and dignity. These homes may be small, family-style places or large, apartment-style facilities.

Residents must usually be ambulatory (canes, walkers, and sometimes wheelchairs are acceptable) and not require on-going extensive medical and nursing care provided in a nursing home.

Assisted living residences provide rooms or apartments, meals, 24 hour staffing, assistance with personal care and medication, housekeeping, laundry, activities, and other services for adults to maintain themselves in their own home.

The cost varies considerably.

There are three programs to assist low-income elders and disabled adults interested in residing in assisted living. (See page 29). Call 222-2858 for more information about these programs.

For a list of the more than 70 licensed facilities in the state, contact the RI Department of Health at 222-2566(V/TTY).

Caregiver Support

Caregiver support groups meet to give each other mutual assistance to cope with caring for an older person. They offer support and share practical information.

Barrington Senior Center 247-1926

Bristol: Veterans Home
Family Council 253-8000,X513

Coventry Senior Center 822-9175

Cranston:

Cranston Senior Svcs. 461-1000

Feinstein ADC (Alzheimer's) 946-9220

Little Compton 635-2981

North Kingstown:

No. Kingstown Sr. Ctr. 295-0666

Scalabrini Villa 884-1802

Portsmouth Senior Center 683-4106

Providence:

Alzheimer's Association 421-0008

Smithfield:

Dora C. Howard Center 949-3890

Village at Waterman Lake 949-1333

Warwick: Cornerstone ADC 739-2856

Westerly Adult Day Care Ctr. 596-1336

Woonsocket:

Landmark Senior Health 765-3135
(Alzheimer's group)

Community Action Programs

Community Action Programs (CAPs) are local social service agencies working to alleviate the problems of poverty through a positive and coordinated approach.

Programs include community organizing, consumer education, counseling, health, winterization, and other services.

Minor home repairs, energy audits, storm doors and windows, insulation, caulking and weatherstripping, window replacement, boiler repairs, and replacement burners comprise CAP weatherization services.

Blackstone Valley CAP	723-4520
Comprehensive CAP	467-9610
New Visions for Newport Cty.	847-7821
Providence (Pro-CAP)	273-2000
Self-Help (Bristol County)	437-1000
South County CAP	789-3016
Tri-Town CAP	351-2750
Westbay CAP	732-4660
Woonsocket CAP	766-0900

Community Elder Information

Community elder information specialists assist with questions and concerns about programs and services for seniors. They assist seniors and their families with entry into the long term care system.

Information specialists are available at:

Central Falls YMCA Center 728-7300

Cranston Senior Services 461-1000, X6255

Coventry Senior Center 822-6229

E. Providence Sr. Center 435-7800, X217

Lincoln Senior Center 724-2000

No. Prov: Salvatore Mancini Ctr. 231-0742

Pawtucket: Leon Mathieu Center 728-7582

Portsmouth Senior Center 683-7943

Providence:

DaVinci Center 272-7474

Diocese of Prov./Respite Svcs. 421-7886

Jewish Seniors Agency 1-888-593-2293

St. Martin dePorres 274-6783

SEDC 941-8422

Urban League 351-5000, X135

Westminster Senior Center 274-6900

South Kingstown: The Center 789-0268

Warwick: Pilgrim Senior Center 468-4500

Westerly Senior Citizens Center 596-2404

West Warwick Senior Center 822-4450

Woonsocket Senior Center 766-3734

Companions, Homemakers, In-Home Workers

The DEA **Home and Community Care Program** (page 28) is a source of information about free or reduced-cost homemaker services for limited income seniors.

Agencies such as **Homefront Health Care** (751-3152), **Jewish Family Service** (331-1244), and **Newport Family Services** (849-2300) offer home health aide services with payment on a sliding scale sometimes available.

Respite Care Services (421-7886) provides reduced-cost homemaker services to limited-income persons. See page 47.

Senior Companion Program volunteers provide up to four hours a day of one on one support services. See page 59.

The services of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, home health aides, nurses's aides, companions, and housekeepers may be secured through agencies listed under "nurses" in the yellow pages.

The **Alliance for Better Long Term Care** is the ombudsman for persons getting licensed home care services. Call 785-3340.

Educational Opportunities

Rhode Island residents 60 and older may take courses at state colleges and at the University of Rhode Island without paying tuition on a space-available basis. Students must have a household income less than three times the federal poverty limit. Currently, the limit is less than \$25,770 for one person and \$34,830 for a 2-person household. Other fees and charges may apply.

Courses at Providence College's Extension Division are available for \$50 per course, plus registration and lab fees, to those 65 and older.

The **Elderhostel** program gives seniors 55 and older the student experience of taking courses, living in a dorm, and participating in campus life for about \$550 a week. Contact the DEA Elderhostel coordinator at 222-2858 for scholarship information. Contact Elderhostel, Inc., 75 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110, telephone at 617-426-8056 for information and an Elderhostel catalog.

Some churches, libraries, and other organizations sponsor *Lifetime Learning* groups. Contact your local school department for information on adult education.

Eldercare Locator

The **Eldercare Locator** is a nationwide service to help families and friends find information about community services for older people anywhere in the United States and its territories.

This is a referral service which links callers to an information and referral agency serving a state or community. Information and referral links people in need with the appropriate services to meet the need.

The Eldercare Locator can connect callers to information sources for such services as home delivered meals, transportation, legal advice, adult day care, home health services, housing options, and much more.

The Locator's toll free number 1-800-677-1116 is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. You can also log onto their web site at www.eldercare.gov.

While the call to the Locator service is free, the subsequent call to the information and referral service in another state may not be free.

Eldercare Services

Eldercare programs assist older Rhode Islanders who wish to remain at home for as long as possible.

To qualify, RI residents must be 60 or older (or Alzheimer's victims of any age); homebound, frail, or disabled; and unable to remain at home without supportive care.

Through Eldercare case management services, clients receive an assessment of their needs. A care manager develops a plan of care which includes options for community based services. The care manager will assist in securing needed services, monitor the care plan, and offer training and support for family caregivers.

Clients with limited incomes and few cash resources may qualify for free or reduced-cost home care services.

Contact the nearest agency:

CRA/NW Comm. Svcs.	1-877-767-4511
Newport Child & Family Svcs.	848-4144
RI Meals on Wheels	351-6700
Self-Help	437-1000
Tri-Town Comm. Action	351-2750,X1163
Westbay Community Action	732-4660

Emergency Response Systems

Emergency response systems (ERSs) provide a value time-saving link between people who are alone or frightened of being alone, and a communications center.

An ERS gives peace of mind to know that help is only a touch-of-a-button away, 24 hours a day.

In an emergency situation, the ERS client presses a button he or she carries to activate emergency response contact.

The following operate ERSs:

Health Watch 1-800-226-8100

Homefront Hlth. Care (Lifeline) 751-3152

Jewish Family Service 331-1244,X19

(Lifeline)

Memorial Hospital (Lifeline) 729-2449

NE Protection 1-800-988-2554

Newport Hospital (Lifeline) 846-6400

RI Meals on Wheels, Inc. 351-6700

Westerly Hospital 348-2300

(Lifeline)

Woonsocket VNS 1-800-696-7991

(Lifeline)

Food Stamps

The Food Stamp program helps low-income households purchase more food.

Eligibility for persons over 60:

Household size: *1-person* *2-person*

Monthly income after

all deductions \$958 \$1258

Resources (savings, etc.) \$3,000 \$3,000

Possible deductions from gross income are a standard deduction of \$134 per household; a telephone deduction of \$22.50; an earned income deduction for working households; medical expenses over \$35 per month; and excess shelter costs over 50% of net income. Seniors may request a home interview.

Pawtucket/Central Falls: 724-9361
 1-800-984-8989
Providence/Cranston Office 222-7276
Warwick: 738-8900
 1-800-282-7021
Woonsocket & Northern RI: 235-6300
 1-800-510-6988

Friendly Visiting

The **Neighborhood Friendly Visitor Program** provides companionship and friendly support to homebound elderly persons across the state. Volunteers visit, read, write letters, and chat with shut-ins who benefit from regular social contact.

This program welcomes seniors who wish to volunteer their time for a few hours each week. Homebound seniors may also call to find out about getting a visitor.

Neighborhood Friendly Visitor Program

83 Stewart Street 421-7886
Providence, RI 02903 1-800-445-2033

Most **Retired Senior Volunteer Programs** in Rhode Island also provide opportunities for friendly visiting activities See page 49.

Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE/RI)

reaches out to lesbians and gay men who may be isolated through advocacy, outreach, and social activities. Call 751-1487.

Geriatric Assessment Units

Geriatric Assessment Units make a comprehensive assessment of a person's medical status. Seniors who have shown recent changes in their physical, psychological, or social functioning are candidates for assessment. A team of professionals identifies health and medical problems and plans a course of treatment.

Cranston:

Geriatric Assessment Program
Eleanor Slater Hospital 462-3277

East Providence:

ICSL/Clinical Studies 435-8950

Newport Hospital Memory

Assessment Program 845-1044

North Providence:

Roger Williams Geriatric
Consultation Service 231-0450

Pawtucket:

Memorial Hospital 729-2483
Alzheimer's/Memory Disorder

Providence:

Butler Hospital Memory 455-6403
Disorders Program

Miriam Hospital Cognitive
Assessment Service 793-5151

Rhode Island Hospital
Geriatric Assessment 444-8054

Health Centers

Community health centers provide many health services for low-income members. Seniors are welcome. Payment is on a sliding scale.

Block Island Health Services	466-2125
Burrillville Northwest Health	568-7661
Central Falls Health Center	724-7110
Coventry Family Health Ctr.	828-5335
Cranston Family Health Ctr.	943-1981
Ea. Providence: East Bay Ctr.	437-1008
Johnston: Tri-Town Hlth. Ctr.	351-2750
Newport: New Visions Hlth. Ctr.	848-2160
No. Kingstown: Bayside Ctr.	295-9706
Pawtucket:	
Blackstone Valley Hlth. Ctr.	722-0081
Providence:	
Allen Berry Health Ctr.	444-0570
Capitol Hill Health Ctr.	444-0550
Central Health Center	444-0580
Chad Brown Health Center	274-6339
Fox Point Health Center	444-0530
Olneyville Health Ctr.	444-0540
Richmond:	
Wood River Health Services	539-2461
South Kingstown:	
South County Health Ctr.	783-0523
Tiverton:	
New Visions Health Center	625-5197
Woonsocket:	
Thundermist Health Center	767-4100

Health Insurance Information

The **Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)** offers free information, counseling, and assistance with health insurance problems to Medicare beneficiaries and other older adults.

Volunteer SHIP counselors can discuss Medicare, supplemental insurance, managed care, over-insurance, free and reduced-cost medical care programs, and long term care insurance.

Volunteers present information to allow consumers to make their best decisions. They do not recommend insurances.

To get in touch with a local SHIP counselor, call the DEA at 222-2858.

The Internet site **www.Medicare.gov** offers Medicare information. The MEDICARE COMPARE database compares health plans benefits, out-of-pocket costs, and other features.

The *RI Guide to Buying Medicare Supplement Insurance and HMOs* is free from the DEA. It contains current information about available health plans in Rhode Island, including coverage and premiums.

Hearing and Speech Services

The **Rhode Island Hospital** (444-5485, or 444-5487-TTY), **Memorial Hospital** (729-2316, or 723-2050 TTY), and **URI** (874-5969) **Hearing and Speech Centers** diagnose and treat hearing, speech, language and swallowing problems.

The **Sargent Rehabilitation Center** provides hearing screening, diagnosis and rehabilitation; dispensing hearing aids and assistive listening and augmentative communication devices; and education or counseling on hearing aid management. Call 886-6600 (V/TTY).

Audiologists identify and evaluate impaired hearing; determine the need for hearing rehabilitation; and dispense hearing aids.

Chapters of Self-Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) meet at the Sargent Center. Call 783-9661. Chapters also meet at Hamilton House. Call 831-1800.

The **RI Relay Service** (1-800-745-6575-Voice and 1-800-745-5555 TTY, and 1-800-745-1570 ASCII) connects text telephone (TTY) and telebraille callers with standard telephone users at no charge, 24 hours a day.

The **RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** administers a sign language interpreter referral service and offers information and referral.

Call 222-1204, or 222-1205 (TTY).

Heating Assistance Program (HAP)

The HAP provides assistance to income eligible customers in meeting the costs of heating their homes.

The amount of assistance provided is based on household size and income level.

Current income guidelines are:

1-person household	\$20,160
2-person household	\$26,362
3-person household	\$32,565

Heating assistance is available to households that are responsible for their heating costs. The amount of assistance available is based on household income.

Apply for heating assistance at:

Blackstone Valley CAP	725-8707
(Woonsocket residents)	765-3258
Comprehensive CAP	467-7013
East Bay Community Action	437-1000
Providence:	
Over 60: DEA	222-2880
Under 60: Prov. CAP	273-0882
South County CAP	789-3016
Tri-Town CAP	351-2750,X1117
Westbay CAP	732-4660

Home and Community Care

The **DEA Home and Community Care Program** provides eligible seniors with assistance to help them remain in the community.

Up to 20 hours a week of homemaker/home health aide services, including light housekeeping, shopping, meal preparation, laundry, and assistance with personal care are available under this program. Or, payment for up to 5 days a week of adult day care services can be authorized. A combination of homemaker and day care services may be arranged.

Applicants for in-home care must be 65 or older, basically homebound, and enrolled in RI Medical Assistance. See page 39.

Reduced-cost home health aide services for limited-income seniors are available to seniors 65 and older, who are basically homebound and have gross annual incomes less than \$16,490 for a single person, or less than \$20,613 if married. These income limits will change on July 1, 2002 to reflect Social Security cost-of living adjustments. Call 222-2858.

Homebound SSI recipients may qualify for free homemaker/home health aide services through the Department of Human Services. See page 39.

Home and Community Care - Waivers

The DEA offers several innovative programs that enable older Rhode Islanders to postpone or eliminate the need for nursing home care.

These “waiver” programs allow seniors 65 and older to receive special services outside of a nursing home. Waiver programs represent exceptions to normal Medical Assistance program rules.

The community waiver program provides extended in-home care to seniors at risk of needing nursing home care.

The DEA waiver enables Medicaid eligible seniors residing in a nursing facility or at home to access home based care or assisted living services.

The assisted living waiver enables Medicaid eligible elders and disabled adults to move into participating assisted living residences under the Medicaid program.

Contact the **DEA's Home and Community Care** program at 222-2858 for details.

Home Equity Conversion

Rhode Island's **Home Equity Conversion Mortgage** (HECM) program allows seniors to borrow against the equity in their homes. The loan is repaid when the house is sold, or when the owner/borrower ceases to live in it. This type of program is sometimes referred to as a "reverse mortgage program."

Under HECM, borrowers must be 62 or older and have annual incomes below \$61,180. They must live in new or existing one-to-four family homes or FHA-approved condominiums.

HECM loans are at a variable interest rate.

Borrowers may choose to receive monthly payments, a line of credit, or a combination of monthly payments and a line of credit.

The Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program is a program of RI Housing, 44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903. Call RI Housing at 751-5566 or 1-800-427-5560 for additional information.

Housing Information

You must be 62 or older, or have a disability, to be eligible for elderly subsidized housing (50 or older in Providence public housing). Applicants may apply for housing in any community they desire.

Very low income applicants (less than \$19,200 annually for an individual and \$21,900 for a couple) have priority for subsidized housing. Senior housings maintain waiting lists after all units are filled. Tenants pay 30% of their monthly income for rent. Medical expenses that exceed 3% of income serve to reduce the amount of rent owed.

The DEA can provide lists of Rhode Island's senior subsidized housings, retirement communities and assisted living/residential care facilities. Call 222-2880 for more information.

Inquire at the local housing authorities or **Rhode Island Housing** at 751-5566, or 1-800-427-5560 about Section 8 rental vouchers for existing units.

Single (S) Married (M)		Nursing Home (NH)	Dept. of Human Services (DHS)
Eligibility	Income Limits	Resource Limits	Where to Apply
65+; or blind; or disabled	\$627.35 (S) \$1,147 - Assisted Living \$957.50 (M)	\$2,000 (S) \$3,000 (M)	Social Security Office 1-800-772-1213 see page 61
65+; or blind; or disabled	\$662 (S) \$703 (M)	\$4,000 (S) \$6,000 (M)	DHS see page 39
65 and older, or disabled adults	\$716 (S) \$958 (M)	\$4,000 (S) \$6,000 (M)	DHS see page 39
enrolled in Medicare	\$736 (S) \$988 (M)	\$4,000 (S) \$6,000 (M)	DHS see page 41
enrolled in Medicare	\$879 (S) \$1,187 (M)	\$4,000 (S) \$6,000 (M)	DHS see page 41
enrolled in Medicare	\$1,327 (M)	\$4,000 (S) \$6,000 (M)	DHS see page 41
enrolled in Medicare	\$1,273 (S) \$1,714 (M)	\$4,000 (S) \$6,000 (M)	DHS see page 41
any age	\$958 (S) \$ 1,258 (2 persons)	\$3,000 if 60+	Food Stamp Office 222-7276 see page 21
enrolled in RI Medical Assistance 65+ and homebound			DEA Home and Community Care Program 222-2858 see page 28
65+ and homebound	\$15,490 (S) \$20,613 (M)		
on Medical Assistance on Medical Assistance	\$645 to \$1,590	\$2,000 \$4,000	DHS see page 43 DEA 222-2858, see page 29
any age	\$30,000 household income		Division of Taxation 222-1040, see page 62
any age	\$20,160 (S) \$26,362 (2 persons)		DEA 222-2880 LIHEAP, see page 27
62+ or disabled	\$19,200 (S)-Very low income \$21,900 (2 persons) Very low		DEA 222-2880, see page 31

65+ Rhode Island resident	\$0 - \$16,490 (S); \$0 - \$20,613(M) 60% discount under \$20,700 (S); under \$25,873 (M) - 30% discount under \$36,225(S); under \$41,400 (M) - 15% discount		DEA 222-2880, see page 48
55+	\$25,770 (S) \$34,380 (M)		Respite Care Services 421-7886, see page 47
62+ must own home	\$61,180		RI Housing: 751-5566 or 1-800-427-5560, see page 30

Housing Rehabilitation

RI Housing's Home Repair Program provides low-interest loans to qualified residents:

Aquidneck Island, Jamestown,	
Tiverton, Little Compton	846-5114
Block Island	466-2176
Bristol	253-7000,X43
Burrillville,Cumberland,	762-6400,X228
North Smithfield & Woonsocket	
Central Falls	727-7480
Charlestown, Exeter,	
South Kingstown, Westerly,	
Richmond, Hopkinton	789-3016
West Greenwich	884-4282, X337
Coventry	822-9169
Cranston	461-1000
Foster, Glocester, Scituate	568-2541
North Providence	232-0900,X239
Pawtucket	724-5200
Warren	245-7360
West Warwick	822-9218

For communities not listed, call the **RI Housing Home Repair Hotline** at 457-1127.

U.S.D.A. Rural Development provides grants and loans for home repair and improvement to qualified homeowners. Call 826-0842.

Identification Cards

The DEA issues senior citizen identification cards for Rhode Islanders 60 and older and residents age 18 to 59 with a disability. These photo-identification cards also contain the owner's name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, and signature. They are valid as proof of identification for cashing checks and other banking transactions involving government funds under \$750 at RI financial institutions.

Cards are issued weekdays at the DEA office in Providence from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Seniors must present proof of age, such as driver's license, birth certificate, or a RIPTA bus pass. Persons with a disability must present a current Social Security disability or Veterans disability award letter. A \$2 donation per ID card is requested.

Further information about the ID card program is available by calling the DEA at 222-2880.

Legal Services

The **DEA Legal Services Developer** helps elders obtain legal assistance. The developer provides public information on legal issues affecting older people and is available to speak at senior organizations. Call 222-2858.

RI Legal Services Senior Citizens Program helps low income persons 60 and older with legal advice and assistance.

This program assists seniors with housing, Social Security, Medical Assistance, Medicare, food stamps, and other problems.

Rhode Island Legal Services is located at 56 Pine Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Call 274-2652, or 272-5335 (TTY), or 1-800-662-5034 for information. The Newport office is located at 50 Washington Square, Newport, RI 02840. The telephone number is 846-2264.

The **RI Bar Association's Legal Information and Referral Service for the Elderly**, 115 Cedar Street, Providence, RI 02903 helps anyone 60 and older obtain legal services and advice. Seniors may receive a free initial consultation of up to 30 minutes. A reduced-fee program is available for moderate income seniors. A no-fee program is available for certain low-income seniors. Call 421-1666 or 521-5040 (TTY).

Library Services

Persons who have a visual impairment or physical disability that hinders them from using traditional library materials may borrow books and magazines in large print, braille, or talking books on cassette or disc free of charge through **Talking Books Plus**.

Call:

Talking Books Plus
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
222-5800.

Machines and materials are mailed directly through the U.S. mail free of charge. However, the statewide library delivery system allows homebound persons to return materials through their local public library.

TechACCESS of Rhode Island enables persons with disabilities to try out computers, software, and other assistive and adaptive equipment. Call 463-0202 for an appointment or information.

Meals on Wheels

The **Meals on Wheels** Program, 70 Bath Street, Providence, RI 02908 provides delivery of a hot, nutritious noontime meal to frail, homebound seniors five days per week.

To qualify, seniors must be 60 years or older; live alone and have no one to help them; and be unable to shop, cook, or drive.

Disabled persons under 60 may be eligible in certain circumstances.

Donations for the meal are accepted.

Volunteers deliver most meals. Meals on Wheels always welcomes new volunteers.

Call 351-6700 for information.

Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance (Medicaid) pays for needed medical care for people 65 and older, or who have a disability.

Eligibility:	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Couple</i>
Monthly Income	\$662	\$703
Resources	\$4,000	\$6,000
Life insurance:	\$4,000 per person	

If your income exceeds the above guidelines, you may still be eligible through the “flexible test.” Apply at the nearest **Department of Human Services** office:

Central Falls	728-2000
Coventry	828-2440
Cranston	462-6500
East Providence	438-7500
Johnston	222-5666
Newport	849-6000
North Kingstown	267-1031
North Providence	222-5666
Pawtucket	728-2000
Providence	222-7000
Warwick	739-9530
Westerly	267-1031
West Warwick	462-6500
Woonsocket	235-6300

Medicare

Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) provides basic protection against costs of needed care in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, at home, and for hospice care.

Medicare medical insurance (Part B) provides supplemental protection against costs of physicians' and providers' services. The monthly premium is \$54 during 2002. Apply for Medicare at Social Security three months before turning age 65.

Rhode Island law (RIGL 5-37-5.1) prohibits physicians from charging Medicare patients more than the amount Medicare approves for covered services.

To report Medicare fraud, call the Aging 2000 Medicare fraud hotline at 1-888-684-7200.

For Medicare information, call 1-800-MEDICARE or log onto **medicare.gov**. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of RI processes most Part B claims for Rhode Island. Call 1-800-662-5170, or 1-888-239-3356 (TTY) for information. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western NY processes claims for durable medical equipment. Call 1-800-842-2052.

RI Quality Partners investigates complaints of improper or inadequate care and works to improve the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. Call 1-800-662-5028.

Medicare Savings Programs

The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), and Qualifying Individuals - 1 (QI-1) programs pay the monthly Medicare Part B premium (\$54) for eligible Medicare beneficiaries. The QI-2 program pays a small portion of the Medicare Part B premium (\$3.91 per month in 2002).

Eligibility:	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Couple</i>
Monthly income		
QMB:	\$736	\$988
SLMB:	879	1,181
QI-1	987	1,327
QI-2	1,273	1,714
Resources	\$4,000	\$6,000

Income limits change every April 1.

QMB pays the Medicare Part A premium, if necessary, plus the Medicare deductibles and coinsurances. SLMB, QI-1, and QI-2 benefits can be retroactive up to 3 months prior to the month of application.

Qualifying for any of these programs increases your Social Security benefit. This can affect eligibility for Medical Assistance and other programs. To apply, contact the nearest Department of Human Services office listed on page 39.

Mental Health Agencies

Community mental health clinics provide mental health and counseling services.

Individual psychotherapy, marital counseling, medical supervision, and treatment for alcoholism and drug abuse are also part of community mental health services.

Payment is based on a sliding scale and ability to pay.

Community Counseling Center
(Pawtucket)

722-5573

East Bay Mental Hlth. Ctr. 431-9875

Kent County Mental Hlth. Ctr. 732-5656

Mental Health Services of NW RI

553-1000

Newport County Community

Mental Health Center 846-1213

Northern RI Community Svcs. 766-3330

Providence Center 528-0123

So.Shore Mental Hlth, Ctr. 364-7705

The Mental Health Association of RI,

500 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860, provides information and referral about mental health services and support groups, distributes educational materials, and advocates for improved mental health services. Call 726-2285.

The Samaritans of RI is a suicide prevention program that works with people before they become suicidal and with those who are thinking of suicide. Call 272-4044 or 1-800-365-4044.

Nursing Home Information

Medicare offers limited skilled nursing facility care when certain conditions are met. Call a **Department of Human Services** long term care office for information about Medical Assistance and nursing home care:

Cranston	462-5182
East Providence	462-5248
Newport	849-6000
Providence	222-7000
Woonsocket	235-6300

The **Department of Health** maintains a list of nursing homes and investigates patient abuse. Call 222-2566 (V/TTY) for information.

The informational leaflet *Medical Assistance and Paying for Nursing Home Care* is available from the DEA. Call 222-2880.

The **Alliance for Better Long Term Care** serves as the state's long term care ombudsman, offering mediation and problem-solving. Call 785-3340.

The **RI Health Care Association** at 732-9333 and the **RI Association of Facilities and Services for the Aging** at 453-0040 are sources of information about nursing home care.

Ocean State Senior Dining

Nutritionally balanced, hot lunches are served 5 days a week at 80 meal sites for seniors 60 and older, or with a disability if under 60. In the case of a married couple, one spouse must be at least 60.

Seniors may donate toward the cost of the meal, but no one is refused a meal if unable to contribute. Transportation to the nearest meal site is available through this program. At least 24 hours notice is required for reservations.

C.O.A.S.I. 725-6444

Pawtucket/Johnston 725-8279

Central Falls/North Providence

Cranston/Coventry/ Foster/Scituate

R.I. Meals on Wheels, Inc. 351-6700

Providence

Self-Help 437-1000

East Providence 433-4663

Bristol County/Newport County

Senior Services 766-3734

Northern Rhode Island

Westbay CAP 732-4660

Warwick/West Warwick

East Greenwich/Washington County

Prescription Program - Free

A number of pharmaceutical manufacturers make some of their drugs available free of charge to patients who have difficulty paying for them.

This is a voluntary program, so each drug manufacturer sets its own eligibility criteria. Most programs require physicians to make direct contact with the manufacturer. Drugs available are generally those used to treat long term illnesses.

The **URI Pharmacy Outreach Program** assists Rhode Island residents regarding the availability of free or low cost medications through the *Medication for the Needy Program*. Call 1-800-215-9001, Monday-Friday, 8 A.M. to Noon. The **Outreach Program** also provides educational seminars, health screens, and discussion groups on health related topics. Call to schedule a program.

The DEA's Customer Information Center also helps older Rhode Islanders with securing covered medications. Call 222-2880.

The **URI Medication Information Hotline** provides information on the use of prescription medications. Pharmacists are on call to answer medication questions. Call 1-800-287-5571.

Protective Services

The **Elderly Abuse Unit** within the Department of Elderly Affairs investigates complaints of physical abuse, exploitation, abandonment, or neglect of Rhode Islanders 60 years of age or older by a caregiver or person with a “duty to care.” In abuse cases, the DEA develops care plans for the abused elder to alleviate the situation or prevent additional abuse.

Rhode Island law requires any person who has reasonable cause to believe that an elderly person has been abused, to report it to the DEA. Failure to report abuse of a person 60 or older can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

Reports of older persons who are no longer able to care for themselves should also be made to the **Self-Neglect Unit** of the DEA.

All information regarding protective services remains strictly confidential and is not considered a matter of public record. To file a report, or for more information, call the DEA Protective Service Unit at 222-2858.

Respite Care

Respite is temporary care given inside or outside the home for seniors who cannot entirely care for themselves. It provides relief to caregivers. **Respite Care Services** offers two programs:

Subsidized Respite Program - This program provides relief to primary caregivers who live with someone 55 years or older, in need of personal care assistance, and whose annual income is under \$25,770, or \$34,380 if married. The program provides financial assistance on a sliding scale for in-home respite, adult day services, and overnight stays in assisted living facilities.

Homemaking Program - Homemakers are available for \$7/8 per hour to anyone 55 or older, and handicapped or disabled adults of any age whose incomes are within the RIPAE limits (see p. 48). This program recruits, trains, and matches respite homemakers with eligible clients. Homemakers can provide assistance with home maintenance or companionship.

Call at 421-7886 or 1-800-445-2033.

Home and Hospice Care of RI provides respite for terminally ill persons. Call 727-7070.

RIPAE

The **RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE)** program pays a portion of the cost of prescriptions used to treat Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, diabetes (including insulin and syringes for insulin injections), heart problems, depression, anti-infectives, Parkinson's disease, high blood pressure, cancer, urinary incontinence, circulatory insufficiency, high cholesterol, asthma and chronic respiratory conditions, osteoporosis, glaucoma, and prescriptive vitamins and mineral supplements for renal patients for eligible RI residents 65 and older.

Individuals with an annual income under \$16,490, and married couples with a combined annual income under \$20,613 receive a 60% discount. Call 222-2880.

Individuals with annual incomes between \$16,490 and \$20,700, and married couples with annual incomes between \$20,613 and \$25,875 receive a 30% discount.

Individuals with annual incomes between \$20,700 and \$36,225, and married couples annual incomes between \$25,875 and \$41,400 receive a 15% discount.

RSVPs (Volunteer Programs)

Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP)

provide opportunities for persons 60 years and older to utilize their enthusiasm, skills, and experience in a volunteer capacity.

Volunteers serve in many hospitals, day care centers, governmental agencies, Head Start Centers and schools. Several RSVP organization volunteers entertain at nursing homes and at other events. Some volunteers are friendly visitors to homebound and institutionalized patients.

Blackstone Valley RSVP	723-5520
Cranston RSVP	461-1000,X6180
East Bay RSVP	435-7876
Capitol Region RSVP	421-7472
Seniors Helping Others	789-2362
West Bay RSVP	732-4660
Woonsocket RSVP	766-2300

SCORE, the Service Corps Of Retired Executives,

is composed of retired business executives who draw upon their years of experience to offer advice as consultants to beginning and struggling small businesses. Call 528-4571.

Senior Centers (Barrington - Johnston)

Senior centers offer volunteer opportunities, recreation, group activities, counseling, information and referral, and continuing education. Some provide hot lunches, outreach, transportation, and health services.

Barrington Senior Center, 281 County Road 02806	247-1926
Bristol: Benjamin Church Senior Ctr., 1020 Hope Street 02809	253-8458
Central Falls YMCA Community Center of CF,* 361 Cowden Street 02863	728-7300
Charlestown Senior Center, Ninigret Park 02813	364-9955
Coventry Senior Center,* 50 Wood Street 02816	822-9175
Cranston Senior Center,* 1070 Cranston Street 02920	461-1000
Cumberland Senior Center, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd 02864	334-2555
E. Providence Sr. Center, 435-7800 610 Waterman Avenue 02914	
Jamestown Senior Center, 6 West Street 02835	423-2658
Johnston Senior Center, 14 Priscilla Lane 02919	944-3343

Senior Centers (Lincoln-Prov. DaVinci)

Lincoln Senior Center, 40 Chapel Street 02865	723-3270
Middletown Senior Center, 650 Green End Ave 02842	849-8823
Narragansett Senior Center, 53 Mumford Road 02882	782-0675
Newport: Edward King House, 35 King Street 02840	846-7426
Florence Gray Senior Ctr., 1 Park Holm 02840	849-7243
Martin Luther King Center, 20 West Broadway 02840	846-4828
North Kingstown Sr. Center,* 10 Beach Street 02852	295-0666
North Providence: Salvatore Mancini Resource Center,* 2240 Mineral Spring Ave 02911	231-0742
Pawtucket: Leon Mathieu Senior Ctr.,* 420 Main Street 02860	728-7582
Portsmouth Senior Center,* 683-4106 110 Bristol Ferry Rd. 02871	
Providence: DaVinci Community Center, 470 Charles Street 02904	272-7474

Senior Centers (Providence)

East Side Senior Center, 670 North Main Street 02904	272-4632
Elmwood Senior Center, 155 Niagara Street 02907	461-7940
Federal Hill Community Ctr., 9 Courtland Street 02903	421-4722
Fox Point Senior Center, 90 Ives Street 02906	751-2217
Hamilton House, 276 Angell Street 02906	831-1800
Hartford Park Senior Center, 20 Syracuse Street 02909	521-1180
Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Avenue 02906	861-8800
Nickerson House Sr. Ctr., 133 Delaine Street 02909	351-2241
Silver Lake Center, 529 Plainfield Street 02909	944-8300(V/TTY)
*Deaf seniors meet Tuesdays (9 A.M. to 3 P.M.)	
Lillian Feinstein Senior Ctr., 1085 Chalkstone Avenue 02908	455-3888
St. Martin dePorres Sr. Ctr.,* 160 Cranston St. 02907	274-6783
Washington Park Center, 42 Jillson Street 02905	461-6650

Senior Centers (Prov. West.-Woon.)

Westminster Senior Center,* 133 Mathewson Street 02903	274-6900
Smithfield Senior Center, 100 Lisa Ann Circle 02828	949-4590
South Kingstown: The Center, 25 St. Dominic Road 02879	789-0268
Tiverton Senior Center,* 207 Canonicus Road 02878	625-6790
Warren Senior Center, 514 Main Street 02885	247-1930
Warwick: Buttonwoods Center, 3027 West Shore Road 02886	732-0140
JONAH Community Center, 830 Oakland Beach Ave. 02886	738-2000
Pilgrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Parkway 02888	463-3474
West Warwick Senior Center, 20 Factory Street 02893	822-4450
Westerly Senior Center, 39 State Street 02891	596-2404
Woonsocket Senior Center, 84 Social Street 02895	766-3734

****Indicates a senior center is designated a
“community focal point on aging.”***

Senior Citizens Police Advocates

Police advocates receive special training on issues relating to the safety of older people. They are the point of contact for seniors who have concerns about crime in their community.

Barrington	Joseph Pine	437-3930
Block Island	Stephen Cahill	466-3220
Bristol	Kenneth DaSilva	253-6900
Burrillville	Angela Jallette	568-6255
Central Falls:		727-7411
	Sandy Graiko/John Laboissoniere	
Charlestown	Jack Shippee	364-1212
Coventry	Paul Koczwanski	826-1100
Cranston	Robert Barber	942-2211
Cumberland	Michael Kinch	333-2500
Ea. Greenwich	Jon Chirnside	884-2444
Ea. Providence	Mark Norton	435-7630
Exeter	Darren Delaney	444-1068
Foster	Robert Bolger	397-3317
Glocester	Alan Gusafson	568-2533
Hopkinton	Pasquale Dinonsie	377-7751
Jamestown	John Dube	423-1212
Johnston:		231-4210
	John Perotta/Leonard Andrews	
Lincoln	Bob Kells	333-1111
Little Compton	Daniel Martin	635-2311

Senior Citizens Police Advocates

Middletown	Raymond Clancy	846-1144
Narragansett:		
	Joseph Little	789-1091, X203
Newport:	Patrick Shea,	847-1302
	James Winters, Kevin Parsonage	
	Sandra Langlais	
N. Kingstown	Daniel Ormand	294-3316
N. Providence	Robert Lough	233-1433
N. Smithfield	Kevin Gouveia	762-1212
Pawtucket	Angelo Squadrito	727-9100
Portsmouth	Deborah Bessette	683-0300
Providence:		272-3121, X2455
	Joseph Sarrasin	
Richmond	Raymond Driscoll	539-8289
Scituate	Charles Collins, Jr.	821-5900
Smithfield	Kevin Proulx	
	231-2500	
S.Kingstown	Jeffrey Peckham	783-3321
Tiverton	William Munroe	624-9611
Warren	Samuel Green	245-1311
Warwick	Matthew Costello/ Sue Gauthier	468-4325
Westerly	Ronald Gaccione	
	596-2022	
W. Greenwich	Ray Cappelli	397-7191
West Warwick	Scott Amaral	821-4323
Woonsocket	John Donlon	766-1212

Senior Workforce Development

The DEA sponsors employment and training programs for income eligible persons 55 and older.

The **Senior Job Service** serves anyone 55 and over (regardless of income) seeking part-time or full time jobs. Job counselors can assist in job matching, referrals, and assistance with job searches.

The **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** provides employment and training opportunities through placement at non-profit agencies statewide. Participants earn minimum wage, work 20 hours weekly and develop skills on the job for future employment.

These **SCSEPs** serve Rhode Island:

Department of Elderly Affairs	222-2858
Senior Aide Program/East Bay	437-1000
AARP-SCSEP/Cranston	464-6616
Senior Aide Program/Warwick	732-4660
Senior Aide Program/Providence	351-4300

NetWORKri provides job search assistance, employment opportunities, and workshops are available at no cost through a DEA partnership. Call 222-3606.

Sickroom/Health Care Supplies

When certain conditions are satisfied, Medicare and RI Medical Assistance can pay for part of the total cost of such durable medical equipment as wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, etc., rented or purchased from hospital supply stores.

In order for Medicare to pay for home medical equipment, it must be prescribed or ordered by a doctor; it must be medically necessary and more than just a convenience item; and the equipment must be appropriate for use in the home.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York processes claims for durable medical equipment for Rhode Island Medicare beneficiaries. Call 1-800-842-2052.

The **RI Division of the International Sunshine Society** lends hospital sickroom equipment of all types. Call 885-6924.

People Actively Reaching Independence (PARI) operates a program to help limited income persons secure the medical equipment and ramps they need. Call 725-1966 (V/TTY).

Social Security

Social Security is the primary source of information about **Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**, and **Medicare** enrollment.

The Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement provides workers with a year by year record of their earnings and an estimate of their Social Security benefits.

In 2002, beneficiaries under 65 may earn up to \$11,280 without affecting their Social Security benefits. Workers reaching 65 may earn up to \$30,000 in the months before they become 65 and still receive all their benefits for that year. There is no earnings limit for workers 65 or older.

Newport Office	1-800-772-1213
130 Bellevue Avenue 02840	849-3487
Pawtucket Office	1-800-772-1213
55 Broad Street 02860	724-9611
Providence Office	1-800-772-1213
380 Westminster Mall 02903	528-4501
Warwick Office	1-800-772-1213
30 Quaker Lane 02886	822-1463
Westerly and Vicinity	1-800-772-1213
2 Shaws Cove -Rm.203	(860) 443-8455
New London, CT 06320	
Woonsocket Office	1-800-772-1213
127 Social Street 02895	766-8423

Stipended Volunteer Programs

The Corporation for National Service funds three stipended volunteer programs in RI. All volunteers are 60 and over, have a limited income and receive a tax free stipend and other benefits while serving clients 20 hours weekly.

Senior Companion Program volunteers serve frail, isolated older adults in their own homes and at adult day centers. They help solve problems and bolster self-esteem. Call 222-2858.

While they are not social workers and don't provide home care or transportation, Senior Companions help their friends live with added zest.

The **Providence Foster Grandparent Program** serves special needs children in the capital city. Call 421-1095. The **Foster Grandparent Program of RI** serves special needs children statewide. Grandparents serve in residential and community settings such as schools, day care centers and hospitals. Call 822-4450.

Substance Abuse Services

The DEA provides help for families who need assistance with alcohol and other drugs. The DEA can help to coordinate treatment and support services for the elderly, family members and significant others.

Medical Detoxification Services:

Butler Hospital:

Senior Specialty Program 455-6220
Medicare/third party coverage

Roger Williams Medical Center:

Substance Abuse 1-800-252-6466
Medicare/third party coverage

Veterans Administration:

Providence VA Medical Ctr. 457-3393

Veterans are eligible for care regardless of ability to pay.

SSTAR of RI Detoxification Services:

Call 1-800-747-6237.

These four facilities are staffed by professionals who have special skills in helping substance abusers and their families deal with the physical and emotional problems caused by addiction and substance abuse. Treatment is always confidential and is provided in a clean, safe environment. These facilities coordinate inpatient and outpatient aftercare and assist in obtaining a bed in a residential center if necessary.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI provides supplemental cash payments for qualified people 65 and older, or blind, or with a disability.

Apply for SSI through the Social Security Administration by calling 1-800-772-1213. SSI recipients are eligible for Medical Assistance, homemaker service if determined necessary, moving expenses, a discount on telephone service, a hearing aid if necessary, reduced electric rates, and assistance from a social worker.

SSI recipients may have earnings up to \$65/month before SSI benefits are affected. **Eligibility guidelines for 2002 are:**

Monthly unearned <i>Individual</i>	<i>Couple</i> income:	
*In own household: \$627.35	\$957.50	
*In another's household:	\$460.02	\$703.79
*In residential care/assisted living facility:	\$1,147	
Resources (savings, cash value of stocks and bonds, etc.)	\$2,000	\$3,000
Face value of life insurance	\$1,500 per person	

Tax Information

All RI cities and towns offer some type of property tax relief to their older residents who meet age, income and residency requirements. Inquire at your city or town hall.

Applications for the RI property tax relief program must be filed between January 1 and April 15. Certain homeowners and renters with household incomes under \$30,000 may receive up to \$250.

Information and assistance with state income taxes is available from:

RI Division of Taxation	
One Capitol Hill	222-1040
Providence, RI 02908	
"Forms Only"	222-1111

Information regarding federal taxes is available from the:

Internal Revenue Service	1-800-829-1040
380 Westminster Mall	1-800-829-4059
Providence, RI 02903	
"Forms Only"	1-800-829-3676

The AARP tax aide program provides information and assistance with completing tax returns between February and April 15 at numerous sites around the state.

Transportation

Ride provides transportation services to those 60 and older and handicapped persons under 60 who meet certain criteria.

Transportation is generally available weekdays for doctors' appointments, therapy, medical tests, senior day care, kidney dialysis, cancer treatments and meal site lunches. Call Ride approximately two to four weeks prior to appointments.

Ride: 461-9760 or 1-800-479-6902

Cranston residents call: 943-3341

These communities provide additional transportation for their senior residents:

Barrington

247-1926

Bristol 253-8458

Burrillville 568-4440

Central Falls 724-6021

Coventry 822-9175

Cranston 943-3341

Glocester 568-2533

Lincoln 723-3270

Narragansett 782-0675

North Kingstown 295-0666

North Smithfield 765-3535

Pawtucket 725-8220

Scituate 647-3160

Smithfield 949-4590

South Kingstown 783-8736

Warren 245-8140

Warwick 463-3474

Transportation - RIPTA Services

ADA Paratransit Services

Rhode Islanders of all ages with a disability may be eligible for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit services.

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) provides curb to curb transportation service to people with disabilities which prevent them from using regular RIPTA bus service.

ADA transportation is provided along existing RIPTA service corridors at a cost of twice the standard bus rate for all riders.

Apply by calling 784-9553.

RIPTA Bus Pass Program

Bus passes cost residents 65 or older \$5 and are valid for 5 years. Qualified riders who have a disability pay \$2 for their 2 year pass. Pass holders pay half-fare on off-peak hours, weekends, and holidays.

Bus pass holders enrolled in Medical Assistance or RIPAE or who have incomes within the RIPAE limit, may apply for the *No Fare* program and ride free during all hours. Call RIPTA at 784-9500 for details.

**RI Department of Elderly Affairs
160 Pine Street
Providence, RI 02903-3708**